

THE COLUMBIA HERALD.

VOL. XLVI

COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1901.

NO 51

NEWS AND COMMENT.

Silk is the strongest of all vegetable or animal threads. It is three times as strong as a flaxen thread of the same size.

Attorney Reynier is in favor of prosecuting the Schley case in the courts. A course of action will be determined on this week.

Explorers have approached within 238 miles of the North Pole, but the nearest approach to the South Pole has been 772 miles.

The worst earthquake shock since 1893 was felt in Manila Sunday morning. One house was wrecked and many houses were damaged.

The Rev. Campbell Brown, of West Virginia, has declined the office of Episcopal bishop to Porto Rico, to which he was recently elected.

Minister Conger will soon be the only foreign minister in Pekin, who passed through the siege, and will then become the dean of the diplomatic corps.

Prof. J. C. Watson, principal of the Huntington public schools, has received a commission from the United States Government to teach in the Philippine Islands.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton celebrated her 86th birthday at her son's residence in New York last week. Mrs. Stanton told her friends that she was never in better health than now.

Lum Brown died Wednesday near Blanche, Tenn., from the effects of a blow on the head by J. L. Davidson, a prominent citizen. Davidson says Brown insulted his wife.

An automobile is being built in New York that will make seventy miles an hour on a level road. The next and most difficult task will be to find a level road seventy miles in length.

King Oscar, of Sweden, the most gifted of all royal musicians, has a magnificent musical library at his Stockholm palace, in which he takes special pride, as it is mainly of his own collecting.

Charley Cowan, a negro prisoner, tried to burn his way out of the jail at Edgewood, Tenn., Tuesday night, and was stifled by the heat and smoke and afterwards burned to death in the fiery furnace.

Lennie Tidwell, a well-to-do farmer of Turnbull, Dickson county, committed suicide, Dec. 11th, by hanging himself in his corn-crib. He left a wife and seven children. No cause for the deed is known.

Maddogs are doing considerable damage in Hardin county, around Clifton. Many farmers have had to kill fine hogs, cattle, horses and sheep. One man had to kill ten large porkers that had been bitten.

Among the many things Japan borrowed from China was football, said to have been introduced as early as the middle of the 17th century. The emperor, Toba II., was quite an expert player and got up a club at his palace.

The crating and shipping of holly bushes to northern points for Christmas trees, is a new industry in the section around Jackson, Tenn. A great many bushes have been shipped, and it is said they command a good price in the cities.

The Welsh language appears to be approaching extinction. In 1871 as many as 1,006,100 people spoke the language; in 1891 the number had fallen off to 911,280, a decrease of 95,811, though the population had meantime increased.

There is a great complaint, in the country around Paris, Tenn., over the numerous deaths of cattle and horses resulting from running in stock fields. It is claimed that the drought of the past summer is the cause of the deaths, the number of which is becoming alarming.

Mr. and Mrs. George Gould have employed a scrap book maker to slip and prepare every printed article that begins with the announcement of the little one's birth, printed upon a sheet of heavy cream paper and mounted in morocco.

A special from Pulaski says: "Messrs. Copeland & Rhea, who operate a large ginning business on the Columbia turnpike, shipped from Buford Station yesterday over 200 bales of cotton for export to Liverpool. The cotton was sent first to Decatur to be compressed.

A strange animal has been roaming in the neighborhood of Turkey Creek camp, Hardin county, for some time. Some think it a wolf, and others a panther. It makes strange noises, and screams like a woman. No one has been able to get close to it, yet, and the people are somewhat frightened.

One of the most elaborate private dinners in a public restaurant, which ever took place in New York City, was given at Delmonico's in the Red Room, Monday, by Mrs. William Solomon, in honor of her husband, who is ex-president of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad. The twelve guests were intimate friends of the Solomon's. The cost of the entertainment was \$150 a plate.

Six persons were killed and eleven were injured in a collision between a passenger and a freight train on the Illinois Central between Irene and Perryville, Ill. The wreck took fire, and those who were not instantly killed were burned to death. The failure of a conductor to obey orders is supposed to be the cause of the disaster. The thermometer was twenty degrees below zero and this added to the suffering of the injured.

SCHLEY COURT OF INQUIRY.

Two Members Censure the Admiral,

WHILE DEWEY APPLAUDS HIM.

Majority Says He Was Vacillating and Negligent—Dewey Gives Him all the Credit for Santiago Victory.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The most prolonged, important and interesting naval tribunal ever held in this country came to an end after having been in open and secret session which lasted three months, when Secretary Long, to-day at 5 p. m., announced the findings of the court of inquiry which inquired into the conduct of Rear Admiral Schley during the Santiago campaign.

Instead of one report there are two. Both are signed by Geo. Dewey, the President of the court, and by Sam C. Lemly, the Judge Advocate. This is a form said to be recognized in all courts of inquiry, the signatures of other members not being necessary. But it is explained that Admiral Dewey signed the second report, a minority report, to express his qualification of or dissent from the views expressed by the court comprising beside himself Admirals Benham and Ramsay, in the first report.



ADMIRAL GEORGE DEWEY.

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NO RECOMMENDATION.

The Court itself recommends no further proceedings owing to the lapse of time.

A report of the Associated Press conveyed first information of the findings of the Court to Admiral Schley. He was seated in the public reception room in the hotel chatting with friends.

When the conclusions of Admiral Dewey were read to him, Admiral Schley showed his pleasure, and it was evident from his manner that he regarded the statement from Admiral Dewey as a vindication of his course. He declined to make any statement concerning the Court's findings, and after excusing himself from the little group which had gathered about him he went to his apartments. Where Mrs. Schley had been anxiously awaiting to hear the Court's decision.

Admiral Dewey declined to make any statement concerning the Court's findings. He said that the Court was not dissolved and that he was still bound by his oath of secrecy.

The Reports.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The report of the Schley court of inquiry was promulgated by Secretary Long to-night. There are two reports. Admirals Benham and Ramsay concur in the first, which is signed by Admiral Dewey also as a matter of form. Admiral Dewey makes a separate report, although he agrees with the finding of the fact subscribed to by the others. The majority report condemns Admiral Schley on eleven points, while Admiral Dewey sustains him in most particulars.

The majority opinion finds, in brief, that Admiral Schley should have proceeded with the utmost dispatch to Cienfuegos and maintained a close blockade; that he should have endeavored to obtain information of the Spanish squadron there; that he should have proceeded to Santiago with dispatch; that he should not have made the retrograde movement; that he should have obeyed the department's orders; that he should have endeavored to capture the Spanish vessels in Santiago harbor; that he did not do his utmost to destroy the Clocn; that he caused the squadron to lose distance in the loop of the Brooklyn; that he thereby caused the Texas to back; that he did injustice to Hodgson; that his conduct in the campaign was characterized by vacillation, dilatoriness and lack of enterprise; that his official reports on the coal supply were misleading; that his conduct during the battle was self-possessed and that he encouraged in his own person his subordinate officers and men.

Admiral Dewey, in his report, says that the passage to Cienfuegos was made with all dispatch; that in view of his coal supply the blockade of Cienfuegos was effective; that he allowed the Adula to enter Cienfuegos to get information; that his passage to Santiago was with as much dispatch as possible, keeping the squadron together; that the blockade of Santiago was effective, and, finally, that he was the senior officer of Santiago, in absolute command, and entitled to the credit due for the glorious victory, which resulted in the total destruction of the Spanish ships.

EXPERT SAFE-OPENER.

A Louisville Man Who Defies Steel and Combinations.

The Louisville Courier-Journal says: Jack Sage, safe expert, was arrested yesterday afternoon at Sixth and Main streets on the charge of being drunk. Sage is known to his friends as "Happy Jack."

Sage's specialty is opening safes, and he has a reputation that is more than local. "Happy Jack's" boast is that the safe was never made that he could not open. And chisels, jimmies, dynamite and sledge hammers are not the implements with which he operates. He uses only his hands and ears. Long practice has made his sense of hearing remarkably keen.

He kneels before the door when he attempts to open a safe. His ear is pressed against the steel, waiting for the first tumbler to drop. His left hand is placed upon the knob. He turns it slowly; sometimes the hundredth part of an inch. He is on the alert to catch the first sound of the tumblers falling, and which would indicate that the solution of the combination had been started.

Main-street business men know him well. Often they lose their combinations and when they arrive at their places of business they are unable to open their safes. "Happy Jack" is sent for and usually it requires only a few minutes for him to solve the combination and swing back the safe door.

One Main-street merchant known for his stinginess once sent for Sage. The combination was in a drawer when he left at night and it was gone the next morning. "Happy Jack" got down in front of the safe and for an hour he turned the knob. Finally he was successful, and the safe was opened. "How much?" inquired the merchant.

"Ten dollars," answered the expert. "Ten dollars? Why, man, there are lots of fellows who would work a week for that much. It's exorbitant and I won't pay it."

"Happy Jack" was before the safe in a moment. The heavy door swung to, and the merchant heard the click of the combination.

"Now, then, it's locked. Go and get a \$10-a-week man to open it." The merchant began to haggle, and Sage raised the price.

"Twenty-five, or she don't open. And I get the check in advance."

The merchant surrendered. "Thieves have long had their eye on 'Happy Jack'." They figure that at their service if they could induce the safe expert to join them, but "Happy Jack" is an honest man.

It is said that a band was recently organized and that an offer was made to Sage. It was well organized—had a manager, an advance man, bank with stock paid up to get them out of trouble if they were arrested, and Sage was to be the star of the aggregation. But Sage is honest, and he would have none of it.

Sage learned what he knows about safes in a foundry where they were cast. He is familiar with every part of their mechanism.

THREE PERSONS DROWNED

In Cumberland River as a Result of the Storm.

Special to the Herald.

Nashville, Dec. 14.—A man named Reynolds, his wife and baby, were washed from the house boat on which they lived and drowned in the Cumberland River last night. The boat was fastened to the bank at the mouth of Richland Creek, several miles below the city. It was torn from its moorings by the storm and wrecked. Two other persons aboard the boat, Mrs. Holman and George Belterly, were rescued by Mrs. Belterly's husband. The bodies of those drowned have not been recovered.

RUTHERFORD'S PRIMARY.

Successful Candidates in the Election Thursday.

Special to the Herald.

Murfreesboro, Dec. 13.—The returns of yesterday's primary election from all the districts of the county, with the exception of the fourth and a part of the tenth, the twentieth and the twenty-second, give the following returns:

For Sheriff, Bragg over Primm, 575; for County Clerk, Wilkins over Singleton, 325; for Trustee, De Jarnett over Lewis, 314; for Circuit Court Clerk, Rucker over Nichol, 890; for Register, Holden about 2700 with no opposition.

Missing Man Returns.

Last February a sensational story was published in Huntington, Tenn., over the find of a skeleton, supposed to be what was left of young Alfred Butler who mysteriously disappeared from his father's residence two or three years before. The report was to the effect that young Butler had been murdered by James and Jack King in a quarrel growing out of a game of cards in which Butler won \$350. Last week young Butler turned up at his home in fine health and with a bride who he married during his four years' stay in Missouri. He had gone to Missouri when he disappeared from home.

Accidentally Shot.

Ripley, Tenn., Dec. 12.—Tuesday night Arthur Crews and Dick Arwood were riding along the public road, seven miles north of Ripley, discharging their revolvers, when Crews was accidentally shot by Arwood, the ball entering the back and passing through the stomach. The surgeon in attendance says Crews cannot possibly recover.

ALL SORTS OF WEATHER.

The Wind Blew a Gale and the Rain Poured.

A Considerable Fall in Temperature, Accompanied by Sleet and Rain.

This section experienced a variety of atmospheric disturbances during last week. The warm, sultry weather of Friday was followed Friday night by wind, rain, lightning and sleet, and the mercury dropped several degrees below the freezing point.

Between 10 and 11 o'clock the wind was almost a gale, and many expected every minute to have their houses picked up by a cyclone. The rain fell in torrents, and it was the biggest downpour this section has had for some time. So far as known, no serious damage resulted from the storm in this county, although many trees and fences were blown down.

A small section of roof on Mr. Geo. McKennon's residence in West End was blown off by the wind, letting the rain into the inside of the building and damaging the hall to some extent.

Damage at Carter's Creek.

The heaviest damage reported as a result of the wind was in the Carter's Creek neighborhood. The roof was blown off Will Jacobs' residence; a barn belonging to Mr. Wilson on the Potter place was unroofed; two sheds of the Virginia-Carolina Co. were destroyed, and a buggy shed and several fences on the Gary place were blown down.

OUT OF THE RACE.

Judge Ferriss Gets Out of the Way of Jim Frazier.

Judge John C. Ferriss of Nashville, in a card to the American says:

"As a free American citizen I announced my candidacy for the office of Governor of Tennessee, and went before the people and did all I could to interest them in my behalf. A great many responded to my call and came to my support, but the party machinery was too well organized to do anything in the way of a legalized primary, and without that I could have no showing. I therefore withdrew from the race for Governor, and take this method of thanking my friends all over the State for their kindness to me, and for the encouragement offered by them. I cannot run as an independent. I have fought too long for Democracy to get up strife in the party. And aside from all that, I have known Mr. Frazier too long to doubt his integrity as a good Democrat and worthy young man, and hope he will, if elected, make some amends along certain lines in State politics."

"I wish to thank The American and Banner and all other papers that spoke well of me, for all they have done for me in my race, which I have made without an organization but almost entirely alone. Respectfully,"

"JNO. C. FERRISS."

"Dec. 12, 1901."

Live Up to Your Faith.

Be the noblest man that your present faith, poor and weak and imperfect as it is, can make you be. Live up to your present growth, your present faith. So, and so on, as you take the next straight step forward. Live in your positives and not in your negatives. I am tired of asking a man what his religious faith is, and having him tell me what he doesn't believe. He tells me that he doesn't believe in baptism or inspiration or in the trinity. If I asked a man where he was going and he told me he was not going to Washington, how could I know where he was going? He would not go anywhere so long as he simply rested in that mere negative. Be done with saying what you don't believe, and find somewhere or other the truest, divinest thing to your soul that you do believe to-day, and work that out; work it out in all the action and consecration of the soul in the doing of your work. This take to be the real freedom of Christian thought—when the man goes forward always into a fuller and fuller belief as he becomes obedient to that which he already holds.—Phillips Brooks.

Live Lizard in Stomach.

Memphis, Dec. 13.—Of late Miss Florence Buchanan of Madison county has had serious trouble and she could not locate the seat of her discomfort. Eminent physicians were summoned to administer to her relief, but all efforts failed until yesterday, when the cause materialized in the form of a six-inch lizard cast from the young woman's stomach. The reptile was alive when thrown up. The symptoms attending this case were most trying nausea and a continual uneasiness about the stomach. Various theories were advanced and almost every physician in this section had diagnosed the case and to all it was a puzzle, and when the lizard made its appearance the physicians were as greatly surprised as was the young woman. Miss Buchanan is now much improved.

Escaped Prisoner Caught.

Gentry Campbell, an escaped prisoner from the Maury county chain gang, and who is also wanted in Hickman county for jumping his bond, was recaptured at Mt. Pleasant Friday by Deputy Sheriff Church.

When using baking powder it is always economy to buy the Royal. Royal makes the finest, most wholesome and delicious food.

CAUGHT AT KNOXVILLE.

Two Train Robbers, One Thought to be Parker.

Knoxville, Tenn., Dec. 15.—This afternoon at 4 o'clock Harvey Logan, alias Harvey Curry, alias Kid Curry, alias Bob Jones, alias Tom Jones, the alleged Montana train robber, who shot two policemen in Knoxville Friday night, and who up until to-night was thought to be Harry Longmarch, another of the gang, was captured by five possemen thirty miles east of here.

A man taken with him at the same time, the police believe, is George Parker, alias Butch Cassidy, alias George Cassidy, alias Ingerfield, although it will perhaps take a Pinkerton man, who will arrive in a day or two, to decide certainly. The man answers Parker's description very accurately.

Logan, after shooting the Knoxville policemen, spent Friday night at the house of a farmer, four miles from town, and yesterday traveled twenty-six miles farther east, where he camped in the woods, in the meantime meeting, by appointment, it is thought, the man supposed to be Parker. To-day the two went into Jefferson City, a hamlet, to procure food. Citizens recognized the pair and the supposed Parker was captured quickly. Logan broke and ran, but was overhauled a mile away by five men with shotguns and Winchester and brought back.

Another lot of the bank notes were found on the person of Logan. When searched a little more than \$2,000 in twenties was found sewed on the inside of his shirt.

Logan and the supposed Parker were brought to Knoxville to-night and the former narrowly escaped the vengeance of a mob for shooting down the two local policemen.

JUDICIAL CONVENTION

Called by Democrats to Meet at Tullahoma April 22, 1902.

Special to the Herald.

Tullahoma, Dec. 12.—The Democratic Executive Committee of the Seventh Judicial District, met to-day to decide whether to hold a convention or primary election to select candidates for Judge and Attorney-General of this district. The majority of the counties in the district were represented. The Committee called a Judicial Convention to meet in Tullahoma April 22, 1902, at noon, for the purpose of nominating a Circuit Judge and Attorney-General for the district.

Jas. G. Aydelott was elected permanent chairman of the committee and John T. Goodrich, of Lincoln county, secretary.

AFTER THE GAMBLERS.

The Davidson County Grand Jury Creates a Stir.

Nashville, Dec. 14.—The Grand Jury returned over 150 indictments against gamblers of this city and others who have been frequenting the various sporting houses along Cherry and other streets of this city. The bulk of the indictments were returned to-day. The indictments are said to have been based on the complaint of Guy Odil, who claims to have lost about \$3,000, which he has been unable to recover.

A Nightmare.

Here is a definition which is as difficult to read rapidly as "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers," and yet it is more sensible. In fact, it is an actual statement of facts, as you will find if you read it slowly: "A sleeper is one who sleeps. A sleeper is that in which a sleeper sleeps. A sleeper is that on which the sleeper runs while the sleeper sleeps. Therefore, while the sleeper sleeps in the sleeper, the sleeper carries the sleeper until the sleeper which carries the sleeper jumps the sleeper and wakes the sleeper in the sleeper by striking the sleeper under the sleeper on the sleeper, and there is no longer any sleeper sleeping in the sleeper on the sleeper."—National Advocate.

Carmack on Schley.

Senator Carmack, in conversation with a Washington correspondent, said: "The verdict of the Schley Court convicts nobody of wrong except the navy department. The rottenness of the ring which has persecuted the brave old admiral is simply revealed with more clearness. Dewey's noble defiance of conspirators shines out like a diamond on a dunghill. Schley's great achievement has won the applause of all who, like him, were in the thick of the fighting. It has excited the hatred of those who got there too late or did not get there at all. His fame is secure and it can't be scratched out by a lot of desk warriors with their lead pencils."

UGLY CHARGE.

George Morgan and George Blinn, Jr., Arrested at Birmingham.

On the Charge of Embezzling \$83,000 From Continental Security Redemption Co.

Special to the Herald.

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 13.—On warrants charging embezzlement, George Morgan, President, and George Blinn, Jr., Treasurer of the Continental Security Redemption Company, for which concern a receiver was appointed months ago, have been arrested. Morgan is charged with embezzling checks and money aggregating \$83,000. Blinn is accused of embezzling \$25,000. Morgan was arrested at Haganville, Ga. Blinn made bond for his appearance, and Morgan will do the same.

WINTER'S ICY GRASP.

The Mercury Comes Very Near Touching the Zero Point.

Saturday and Sunday were almost record-breakers for cold December weather. The mercury began tumbling at a rapid rate Saturday, and Old Winter's icy grasp was felt everywhere. Early Sunday morning the Government thermometer at Rains drugstore registered 1 degree above zero, and thermometers in other localities went a little below that point. It was icy cold all day Sunday, and old Sol's attempts at thawing availed but little. Sunday night the lowest official registration was 2 degrees above zero.

Many hydrants throughout the city were burst by the water freezing in them, and the plumbers were kept busy stopping leaks.

There has doubtless been a good deal of suffering among the poor of the city, many of whom were caught unprepared by the sudden change.

FOR A PUBLIC BUILDING.

Congressman Padgett Introduces a Bill Appropriating \$50,000.

The Herald is in receipt of a copy of House Bill No. 4318, introduced by Congressman Padgett, providing for the erection of a public building at Columbia. The bill directs the Secretary of the Treasury to purchase or otherwise provide a suitable site, and cause to be erected thereon a substantial and commodious building for the use of the post-office and other offices of the Government at this place, the same not to exceed in cost the sum of \$50,000. The bill was referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds.

THOMAS RELEASED.

Tried on a Peace Warrant Sworn Out by Brown Kinzer.

John W. Thomas, who was tried Saturday before Esg. George W. Hayes on a peace warrant taken out by Brown Kinzer, was released. The arrest of Thomas grew out of a meeting between him and Kinzer on the public road, in which it was alleged that Thomas made threats against Kinzer and several other witnesses against him in his recent trial on the charge of murder.

There were no witnesses who heard the conversation, and the proof was not deemed sufficient to sustain the charges.

BOUND OVER.

Mollie Ward, Charged with Stealing a Pistol and \$25.

Mollie Ward, who was arrested in Nashville last week by Deputy Sheriff Church on the charge of larceny, was tried before Esg. Hayes Saturday and bound over to the Criminal Court. She is charged with stealing a pistol from Tom Jordan and \$25 from Manuel Thomas at Carter's Creek.

To a Higher Tribunal.

Ben Miller, colored, who was sentenced by the Maury County Circuit Court to seven years in the penitentiary for murder, was carried to Nashville this morning, where his case will be heard in the Supreme Court. Sheriff Hight chaperoned him.

Smallpox in the State.

Nashville, Dec. 12.—Twenty-four cases of smallpox were reported to the State Board of Health to-day. Five are in Jackson county, three in Lauderdale, eight in Shelby and eight in Fayette.